

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

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O 131000Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5282

S E C R E T JIDDA 4863

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

1. SUMMARY: CROWN PRINCE FAHD INFORMED ME JULY 12 THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HELP JORDAN ACQUIRE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HE HAS REQUESTED THAT WE SUPPLY HIM WITHIN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS IF POSSIBLE WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING PACKAGE WE HAVE IN MIND, AND HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED FOLLOWING BE INCLUDED:

(1) FIRM STATEMENT OF OVER-ALL COST OF PACKAGE; (2) ITEMIZED LIST OF CONTENTS, INCLUDING COST OF COMPONENTS; (3) FIRM DELIVERY DATES WITH STATEMENT AS TO WHEN ENTIRE PACKAGE WILL BE INSTALLED AND FUNCTIONING; (4) DETAILS OF PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT. IN LAST CONNECTION, CROWN PRINCE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF OTHER SAUDI COMMITMENTS HE DESIRES MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF SAUDI CONTRIBUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD JULY 12, I INQUIRED WHETHER HE WAS IN POSITION TO GIVE ME REACTION TO THE VISIT OF KING HUSSAIN ON JULY 4. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL HELP JORDAN ACQUIRE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HE SAID KING HUSSAIN HAD COME TO JIDDA AT HIS OWN REQUEST AND HAD PROVIDED DETAILS OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM AND OTHER ITEMS WHICH RUSSIANS ARE PREPARED TO SELL TO JORDAN AND TO INSTALL WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS. HE SAID HUSSAIN HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT ACCEPTING RUSSIAN ARMS AND HAD INDICATED HE

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WISHED TO TRY AGAIN WITH THE AMERICANS. SAUDIS AGAIN TOLD

HUSSAIN THAT THE RUSSIANS CAN BE EXTREMELY ACCOMMODATING AT THE OUTSET OF SUCH AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, BUT HISTORY PROVES THAT THEY DO THEIR BEST TO TIE DOWN RECIPIENTS OF THEIR ARMS IN A WAY WHICH MANY GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEPT.

3. CROWN PRINCE SAID HE NEEDED CERTAIN THINGS FROM US IN CONNECTION WITH THE JORDANIAN PROJECT. HE NEEDED TO KNOW FIRST WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE JORDANIANS. I SAID THE JORDANIANS ARE AWARE THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED AN ECONOMY PACKAGE, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN NEGOTIATING DETAILS WITH THEM AND FELT WE SHOULD NOT PRIOR TO A DEFINITE REPLY FROM THE SAUDI GOVT, WHICH THE JORDANIANS ARE AWAITING, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SAG WOULD FINANCE A PROGRAM. I REPEATED THAT THE JORDANIANS ARE EXPECTING, AS A RESULT OF HUSSAIN'S TALKS WITH THE SAUDIS TO RECEIVE A DEFINITE RESPONSE FROM THE SAG ON THE SUBJECT. FAHD AGREED THAT JORDANIANS ARE CORRECTLY ANTICIPATING A SAUDI NOTIFICATION.

4. CP SAID THAT SAUDIS COULD RESPOND TO JORDANIANS AFTER THEY RECEIVE FROM US A STATEMENT PROVIDING DETAILS OF THE PACKAGE WE HAVE IN MIND: FIRM STATEMENT OF OVER-ALL COSTS OF PROGRAM AND WHAT IT INCLUDES; COSTS OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS; SPECIFIC DELIVERY DATES, INCLUDING DATES FOR INITIAL AND FINAL DELIVERIES; AND DETAILS CONCERNING PERIOD OF TIME OVER WHICH SAUDIS COULD MAKE PAYMENTS. HE DESIRES THAT PERIOD BE AS EXTENDED AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF OTHER SAUDI COMMITMENTS.

5. CROWN PRINCE SAID SECOND THING HE NEEDS FROM US IS AN ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPLY JORDAN WITH A DEFENSE SYSTEM AND THAT WE FEEL THAT ONE WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THAT COUNTRY. HE ASKED THAT BOTH THE DATA HE HAD REQUESTED AND THE ASSURANCES OF U.S. WILLINGNESS AND BELIEF IN NECESSITY OF SYSTEM FOR JORDAN BE CONVEYED TO HIM, IF POSSIBLE, WITHIN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS. IN MEANTIME, HE WOULD INFORM THE JORDANIANS THAT SAUDIS ARE IN TOUCH WITH US ABOUT THE MATTER AND EXPECT TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS.

6. FINALLY, PRINCE FAHD SAID ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WITH HUSSAIN WAS GOOD. HE GAVE SOME DETAILS OF WHAT AMOUNTED TO
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MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF REGRETS BY BOTH PARTIES CONCERNING TONE OF EARLIER EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. DEPT PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS DEEMED NECESSARY.
PORTER

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NNN

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